

# National Women's History Month events among the special programs at the museums of the state of Delaware in March 2014



During the month of March 2014, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be offering 17 special programs at the [state of Delaware's six museums](#). Ten of these programs will be presented in celebration of National Women's History Month. A full schedule of events is listed below. All programs are free and open to the public. For additional information, call 302-744-5055.

Highlights of the month include "A Woman's World," a series of programs that explore the daily responsibilities of 18th-century women and the domestic skills that they were expected to possess. "A Woman's World" programs will take place between 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on March 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26 and 29 at the [John Dickinson Plantation](#), located at 340 Kitts Hummock Road in Dover.

On Saturday, March 1, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), located at 375 S. New St. in Dover, will offer the program "The Women Who Influenced Victor" featuring guided tours that examine the glamorous lives of the many female artists of the Victor Talking Machine Company. Tours will be accompanied by early recordings of those artists played on authentic Victor Talking Machines.

Finally, on Saturday, March 1 at 1 p.m., [The Old State House](#), located at 25 The Green, in Dover, will present “The Harriet Tubman Byways,” a program on the series of roads in [Delaware](#) and [Maryland](#) that provide access to Underground Railroad sites including those utilized by the legendary Harriet Tubman who helped more than 300 slaves escape to freedom during the mid-19th century.

Designated by joint resolutions of the United States House of Representatives and Senate and proclaimed by six American presidents, [National Women’s History Month](#) is an opportunity to honor and celebrate women’s lives and historic achievements. Each year National Women’s History Month employs a unifying theme and recognizes national honorees whose work and lives testify to that theme. For 2014, the theme is “Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment.”

Administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the six museums of the state of Delaware—the New Castle Court House Museum, the John Dickinson Plantation, the First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries, The Old State House, the Johnson Victrola Museum and the Zwaanendael Museum—tell the story of the First State’s contributions to the history and culture of the United States. Through displays, exhibits and special programs, the museums explore how the state’s distinctive physical environment, in combination with the people who came to live there, gave Delaware an identity that is different from any other place.

## **Special events at the museums of the state of Delaware, March 2014**

### **Saturday, March 1, 2014**

**“House on Fire: The 210th Anniversary of the John Dickinson Mansion Fire.”** “Tis with regret I acquaint you that your house was burnt down on Saturday last.” With these words, John Dickinson learned of the destruction of his home. Special tours will explore the details of the fire and

Dickinson's decision to rebuild the mansion. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Saturday, March 1, 2014**

**"An Illegal Activity."** Utilizing the exhibit "[An Illegal Activity: The Underground Railroad in Delaware](#)" as a backdrop, guided tours will explore Delaware's crucial role in the Underground Railroad and on two Delaware leaders who aided in this "freedom enterprise." [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#), Delaware Public Archives building, 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. Tours at 10 a.m., Noon and 2 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

**Saturday, March 1, 2014**

**"The Harriet Tubman Byways."** Guests will learn about the historical routes in [Delaware](#) and [Maryland](#) and the inspirational conductor on the Underground Railroad for whom they are named. Presented in conjunction with [First Saturday in the First State](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

**Saturday, March 1, 2014**

**"The Women Who Influenced Victor."** Guided tours examine the glamorous lives of the many female artists of the Victor Talking Machine Company, accompanied by early recordings of those artists played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. Presented in conjunction with [First Saturday in the First State](#). [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

**Sunday, March 2, 2014**

**"Abolition and the Family."** Historian Robin Krawitz will reveal new historical information concerning Delaware's citizenry, abolition movement and the Underground Railroad. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 2 p.m.

Museum open 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

**~~Wednesday, March 5, 2014~~**

~~**Henry Gawthrop of the 4th Delaware.** Lecture by Justin Carisio on the Quaker officer who served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. Presented by the New Castle Court House Museum and the New Castle Historical Society. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 7 p.m. Admission \$5. Free for New Castle Historical Society members. 302-323-4453. **Note: Program cancelled.**~~

**Wednesday, March 5 and Saturday, March 8, 2014**

**"A Woman's World."** Learn about butter making and explore how women lived on the estate of the "Penman of the Revolution." [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Saturday, March 8, 2014**

**Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild.** Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Wednesday, March 12 and Saturday, March 15, 2014**

**"A Woman's World."** Explore the art of paper quilling and learn how women lived on the estate of the "Penman of the Revolution." [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Friday, March 14, 2014**

**"Pi(e) Day at the Plantation."** Celebrate Pi Day by exploring pie recipes from the 1700s and baking pies 18th-century-style. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Saturday, March 15, 2014**

**"Delaware's Decades—the 1960s: 'History of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry.'" Lecture by Mike DiPaolo, executive director of the Lewes Historical Society. ~~J. Fred Coldren, former business manager of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry and historian for the 50th anniversary of the ferry.~~ Part four of an eight-part series exploring decades in Delaware's history. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148. **Note change in speaker.****

**Wednesday, March 19 and Saturday, March 22, 2014**

**"A Woman's World."** Explore the art of letter writing, review family letters and create your own 18th-century-style letter sealed with wax while also learning how women lived on the estate of the "Penman of the Revolution." [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Wednesday, March 26 and Saturday, March 29, 2014**

**"A Woman's World."** Explore how women lived on the estate of the "Penman of the Revolution." Experience the joys of 18th century housekeeping by helping to clean the property's mansion house. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

## **Exhibits at the museums of the state of Delaware, March 2014**

In addition to special programming, the museums of the state of Delaware are presenting the following exhibits:

**Thru July 31, 2014**

**["An Illegal Activity: The Underground Railroad in Delaware."](#)**

Exhibit explores the First State's role in the Underground Railroad by showcasing Thomas Garrett and Samuel D. Burris and the actions they took in following their consciences

rather than the law. Presented in partnership with the Underground Railroad Coalition of Delaware. [First State Heritage Park Welcome Center and Galleries](#), Delaware Public Archives building, 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5055.

### Ongoing

[“Archaeology of the New Castle Court House.”](#) The exhibit highlights the many phases of archaeological investigations at the New Castle Court House including artifacts representing over 300 years of continuous use of the building. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

### Ongoing

[“Delaware and the War of 1812.”](#) Exhibit examines the service and sacrifice of Delawareans of 1812 to 1815, and the important role that the state played in a conflict that helped shaped the development of the United States. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. from Nov. 1–March 31. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. 302-645-1148.

### Ongoing

[“Emeline Hawkins: Her Journey From Slavery to Freedom on the Underground Railroad.”](#) Exhibit chronicles the compelling story of Emeline Hawkins and her family and their 1845 odyssey on the Underground Railroad from slavery in Maryland, through Delaware to freedom in Pennsylvania. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

### Ongoing

[“A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”](#) Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty’s

Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798 to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. from Nov. 1–March 31. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. from April 1–Oct. 31. 302-645-1148.

### **Ongoing**

**"Simple Machines."** Exhibit demonstrating the six "simple machines"—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel —that constitute the elementary building blocks of which all complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

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